

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2878

To authorize microenterprise assistance for renewable energy projects in
developing countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize microenterprise assistance for renewable energy
projects in developing countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may cited as the “Solar Villages Initiative
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE FOR RENEWABLE**
7 **ENERGY PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUN-**
8 **TRIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
10 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-

1 national Development and in consultation with the Sec-
2 retary of State and the Secretary of Energy, is authorized
3 to provide assistance for renewable energy projects de-
4 scribed in subsection (b) in developing countries to in-
5 crease the availability of credit, savings, and other services
6 to microfinance and microenterprise clients lacking full ac-
7 cess to capital, training, technical assistance, and business
8 development services.

9 (b) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—The renewable energy
10 projects described in this subsection include projects to as-
11 sist small and micro businesses that loan or sell solar lan-
12 terns or lamps and other solar energy technologies.

13 (c) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under sub-
14 section (a), the President shall give priority to empowering
15 female-owned businesses in developing countries.

16 (d) RELATION TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—Assist-
17 ance provided under subsection (a) shall be made available
18 under the authorities of section 252 of the Foreign Assist-
19 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211a).

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry
22 out this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010,
23 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,000,000 for fiscal

- 1 year 2012, \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2013, \$20,000,000
- 2 for fiscal year 2014, and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2015.

